

March 11, 2014

Via Email; [LABTestmony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:LABTestmony@cga.ct.gov)

Sen. Gary Holder-Winfield  
Rep Peter Tercyak  
Co-Chairs, Labor and Public Employees Committee  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Legislative Office Building – Room 3800  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: CT Domestic Worker Bill of Rights

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in regards to the Connecticut Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. I am asking your support on this bill, because Domestic Workers do so much work in the community. Domestic workers range from child car takers, to housecleaners to elderly caretakers.

I am writing to you from a personal standpoint, as I have spent the past eight years being a part-time nanny to two children for eight years, and then when the family had another child, three children for the past four years. Although I was lucky, and never was underpaid for my time, like many women are, I was taken advantage of at many different points. My job was to care for the three children in the mornings three times a week. There were many times when I got there and the two older children would have friends over, and I was never informed of this until I arrived. I was then caring for five children and still getting paid the same rate that I would when I just cared for the three children. Not once did the mothers of the friends ever acknowledge me when they came to pick their children up. I simply remained invisible.

Being a domestic worker goes beyond watching child. It means teaching them, it means caring for them, it means being there no matter what, and putting the child's needs before your own at all times. I know that I have contributed to the child rearing of this family, because I was responsible for tutoring one of the children who suffered from a speech impediment and teaching the youngest toilet training. . This work so often is devalued in our society however. I am asking that you understand the importance of domestic work, and institutionalize the dignity and worth of this profession.

When I look back, and after speaking with other domestic workers, I realize that I am lucky that I was able to receive a job that paid minimum wage, and that there was never a time when I went without getting paid. Sadly, this isn't the case for many. Domestic workers do so much in the community to help out individual's children, to clean for others, and to take care of individual's parents, all so these people can go and earn a living and pay income taxes.

I urge you to support the Connecticut Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, in order to give these domestic workers a guaranteed right to minimum wage and overtime, one day of rest in a week, paid time off, use of a work agreement, and right to workers compensation. and to give them the chance to have a law back up their rights as a domestic worker.

Thank you for your time.

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